

Mercer-Wilder House (Alee Temple)  
429 Bull Street  
Savannah  
Chatham County  
Georgia

HABS No. GA-1189

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GA  
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

STATE Georgia	COUNTY Chatham	TOWN OR VICINITY Savannah
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Mercer-Wilder House (from HABS Georgia Catalog)		HABS NO. GA-1189
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE Alee Temple		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 429 Bull Street		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) Begun ca. 1860; work suspended 1861; <del>recommenced 1866</del> (HABS GA Cat.; Daily News)	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Begun John S. Norris; completed by firm of Muller & Bruyn. (from HABS Georgia Catalog)	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) Architect Norris responsible for other major commissions in Savannah, including the U.S. Customs House. This particular building a good example of the Italianate Style. Originally designed for Confederate General Hugh Mercer. Rated "Excellent" in Historic Savannah Foundation Survey. Carriage House (GA-1189-A) interesting surviving dependency.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Italianate		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) HOUSE: "Brick with banded stone base, stone steps; stone, wood, and cast-iron trim." (p. 332, HABS Georgia Catalog) CARRIAGE HOUSE: Brick, brownstone trim.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) HOUSE: rectangular; 2-story; raised basement; 3-bay front; low slope or flat roof; 3-tier porch in rear; entrance porch. C. HOUSE: rectangular; flat or low slope roof, width of lot.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE HOUSE: ". . . wide bracketed eaves. . . Ornate cast-iron cornices over arched windows, some of which are paired, some full-length, with cast-iron balconies. . . Corinthian entrance porch with two sets of paired columns, recessed arched doorway." (p. 332, HABS Georgia Catalog) Words "Alee Temple" on frieze of entrance porch. Cast iron fence surrounds house.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) HOUSE: "Central hall plan with skylighted circular stairway in side recess. Elaborate Italianate wood and plaster work." (p.332, HABS Georgia Catalog)		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Constructed halted during the Civil War, during which period the original plans were lost. Construction recommenced after the war by architects familiar with original plans.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Unknown; condition as of 1966 appears good.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Linely, John. <u>The Georgia Catalog, Historic American Buildings Survey</u> . 1982. Historic Savannah Foundation. <u>Historic Savannah</u> . 1968. Notice, Savannah <u>Daily News and Herald</u> , August 13, 1866. --In Savannah National Reg. District		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Druscilla J. Null		DATE 6/3/83